UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BEFORE THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD
SEVENTH REGION

REICHENBACH CEILING & PARTITION CO.[1]

Employer

and **Case 7-RC-22469**

LOCAL 16, OPERATIVE PLASTERERS' AND CEMENT MASONS' INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA, AFL-CIO

Petitioner

and

LOCAL 9, INTERNATIONAL UNION OF BRICKLAYERS AND ALLIED CRAFTWORKERS, AFL-CIO

Intervenor[2]

APPEARANCES:

Eric Frankie, Attorney, of Detroit, Michigan, for the Petitioner.
John Adam, Attorney, of Southfield, Michigan, for the Intervenor.

DECISION AND DIRECTION OF ELECTION

[1] The name of the Employer appears as amended at the hearing.

[2] At hearing, Petitioner challenged Intervenor's standing to intervene. At the onset of the hearing, the Intervenor stated that its motion to intervene was based on its "collective bargaining relationship with the Employer." Despite the hearing officer's repeated requests, however, the Intervenor refused to enter into the record any evidence of that relationship. Nevertheless, I take administrative notice that the record in ***Reichenbach Ceiling & Partition Co.***, 337 NLRB No. 17 (2001), establishes that on September 29, 1998, the Employer agreed to be bound by the terms of Intervenor's contract with Michigan Council of Employers of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers (MCE), which applies to plasterers, among other classifications. The Employer did not serve notice to terminate or withdraw from the 1997-2000 contract prior to its expiration. Consequently, according to the roll-over provision of the contract, the Employer became bound to a successor agreement between the Intervenor and MCE, effective by its terms from June 22, 2000 through August 1, 2003. This, I find, is sufficient to establish the Intervenor's interest in this proceeding, and I thus grant the Intervenor's motion to intervene.

Upon a petition duly filed under Section 9(c) of the National Labor Relations Act, as amended, a hearing was held before a hearing officer of the National Labor Relations Board.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 3(b) of the Act, the Board has delegated its authority in this proceeding to the undersigned.

Upon the entire record in this proceeding,[3] the undersigned finds:

1. The hearing officer's rulings made at the hearing are free from prejudicial error and are hereby affirmed.

2. The Employer is engaged in commerce within the meaning of the Act, and it will effectuate the purposes of the Act to assert jurisdiction herein.[4]

3. The labor organizations[5] involved claim to represent certain employees of the Employer.

4. A question affecting commerce exists concerning the representation of certain employees of the Employer within the meaning of Section 9(c)(1) and Sections 2(6) and (7) of the Act.

The Petitioner is currently recognized as the bargaining representative of a unit of approximately 25 full-time and regular part-time plasterers employed by the Employer working at or out of its facility located at 4216 Legacy Parkway, Lansing, Michigan, in certain areas of Michigan; but excluding all other employees, and guards and supervisors as defined in the Act. It desires certification under the Act. The Intervenor argues that an election is barred by Petitioner's contract with the Employer, agreeing to be bound by the terms of

[3] The Petitioner and the Intervenor filed briefs, which were carefully considered.

[4] The Employer did not participate in the hearing, and therefore no stipulation could be obtained as to the Employer's activities in commerce. The record establishes that on June 13, 2003, the Employer was sent a letter stating that unless it informed the Regional Office otherwise, jurisdiction could be asserted over the Employer based on a record developed at the hearing demonstrating statutory jurisdiction, pursuant to ***Tropicana Products***, 122 NLRB 121 (1959). The Employer did not respond. The uncontroverted evidence establishes that in the past year, the Employer performed a job at Eastwood Town Center in Michigan on which it used goods and materials valued in excess of $50,000 shipped from the state of Georgia, and from which it was estimated to have derived "multimillion" dollars in gross revenues. Consequently, the record is sufficient to establish that the Board has statutory jurisdiction over the Employer. ***Major League Rodeo, Inc.***, 246 NLRB 743, 745 (1979); ***Tropicana***, supra.

[5] Although the parties were unable to stipulate as to the labor organization status of the Petitioner and the Intervenor because the Employer was not present at the hearing, I take administrative notice of the fact that both the Petitioner and the Intervenor have been found to be labor organizations in numerous other cases with the Board. The record also establishes that both the Petitioner and the Intervenor represent employees, have negotiated collective bargaining agreements on behalf of those employees they respectively represent, and employees participate in both organizations.

Petitioner's contract entitled "Plasterers 2002-2004 Agreement entered into between Lansing, Jackson Area Contractors and Local #16" (LJAC contract). In addition, the Intervenor contends that the contract bars an election because the unit in which the Petitioner seeks an election is not co-extensive with its existing unit.

For the reasons set forth below, I find there is no contract bar to the instant petition because the Petitioner is the recognized bargaining agent of the employees covered by the contract and may petition for certification during the term of its own contract. In addition, I find that the fact the Petitioner is seeking to represent a larger unit than it currently represents does not preclude Petitioner from seeking certification.

The Employer is engaged in the building and construction industry within the State of Michigan and primarily builds interior walls and installs suspended ceilings. On July 30, 2002, the Employer signed the LJAC contract covering plastering work performed in the Lansing/Jackson area.[6] The agreement is effective by its terms through May 31, 2004, with a provision allowing the contract to roll over absent notice by either party.

The Intervenor contends that the Petitioner's contract with the Employer serves as a bar to the instant petition. However, it is well established that an employer's recognition of, and current contract with, a petitioning union does not bar a petition for certification by that union. ***Duke Power***, 173 NLRB 240 (1969). A recognized bargaining agent is entitled to the benefits of certification. ***Id.***; ***General Box Co.***, 82 NLRB 678 (1949). Although the Intervenor argues that the timing of the filing of the instant petition—over one year prior to the expiration of the contract—should preclude the Petitioner from seeking the benefits of certification, the Board will entertain a petition filed by a voluntarily recognized union desiring certification at any time during the contract term. ***Id.***

In addition, the Intervenor argues that the unit in which the Petitioner seeks an election goes beyond the existing geographical unit and, because it is not co-extensive with its existing unit, this should preclude the Petitioner from relying on ***General Box***. In other words, the Petitioner is seeking an election in a unit comprised of employees covered by Petitioner's contract and some employees who are not covered and, thus, the Intervenor argues, the contract should bar the election. A contract, however, cannot bar an election as to employees to which the contract does not apply. ***Duke Power***, supra at 240-241. Accordingly, I find that the Petitioner's contract with the Employer is not a bar to the instant petition.

[6] The contract covers work performed in all of Clinton, Eaton, Ingham, and Jackson counties, and the northwestern portion of Livingston county, including the townships of Conway, Cohoctah, Handy, Howell Township, and the city of Howell.

5. Based on the foregoing, and the record as a whole, I find that the following employees constitute an appropriate unit for the purposes of collective bargaining within the meaning of Section 9(b) of the Act:

> All full-time and regular part-time plasterers employed by the Employer working at or out of its facility located at 4216 Legacy Parkway, Lansing, Michigan; but excluding all other employees, and guards and supervisors as defined in the Act

Those eligible to vote shall vote as set forth in the attached Direction of Election.[7]

DIRECTION OF ELECTION

An election by secret ballot shall be conducted under the direction and supervision of the undersigned among the employees in the unit(s) found appropriate at the time and place set forth in the notice of election to be issued subsequently, subject to the Board's Rules and Regulations. Eligible to vote are those employees in the unit(s) who were employed during the payroll period ending immediately preceding the date of this Decision, including employees who did not work during that period because they were ill, on vacation, or temporarily laid off. Also eligible to vote are all employees who have been employed for 30 working days or more within the 12 months preceding the eligibility date or if they have had some employment in those 12 months and have been employed for 45 working days or more within the 24-month period immediately preceding the eligibility date. Ineligible are those employees who had been terminated for cause or quit voluntarily prior to the completion of the last job for which they were employed. Employees engaged in any economic strike, who have retained their status as strikers and who have not been permanently replaced are also eligible to vote. In addition, in an economic strike which commenced less than 12 months before the election date, employees engaged in such strike who have retained their status as strikers but who have been permanently replaced, as well as their replacements, are eligible to vote. Those in the military service of the United States may vote if they appear in person at the polls. Ineligible to vote are employees who have quit or been discharged for cause since the commencement thereof and who have not been rehired or reinstated before the election date and employees engaged in an economic strike which commenced more than 12 months before the election date and who have been permanently replaced. Those eligible shall vote whether or not they desire to be represented for collective bargaining purposes by:

LOCAL 16, OPERATIVE PLASTERERS' AND CEMENT MASONS' INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA, AFL-CIO

or

LOCAL 9, INTERNATIONAL UNION OF BRICKLAYERS AND ALLIED CRAFTWORKERS, AFL-CIO

or

NO UNION

LIST OF VOTERS[8]

[7] The Petitioner and the Intervenor agree that the construction industry eligibility formula set forth in ***Daniel Construction Co.***, 133 NLRB 264 (1961), is applicable to this case, and I find that formula to be appropriate.

[8] If the election involves professional and nonprofessional employees, it is requested that separate lists be submitted for each voting group.

In order to ensure that all eligible voters may have the opportunity to be informed of the issues in the exercise of their statutory right to vote, all parties to the election should have access to a list of voters and their addresses which may be used to communicate with them. ***Excelsior Underwear, Inc.***, 156 NLRB 1236 (1966); ***NLRB v. Wyman-Gordon Company***, 394 U.S. 759 (1969); ***North Macon Health Care Facility***, 315 NLRB 359 (1994). Accordingly, it is hereby directed that **within 7 days** of the date of this Decision **3** copies of an election eligibility list, containing the full names and addresses of all the eligible voters, shall be filed by the Employer with the undersigned who shall make the list available to all parties to the election. The list must be of sufficient clarity to be clearly legible. The list may be submitted by facsimile transmission, in which case only one copy need be submitted. In order to be timely filed, such list must be received in the **DETROIT REGIONAL OFFICE** on or before **July 17, 2003.** No extension of time to file this list shall be granted except in extraordinary circumstances, nor shall the filing of a request for review operate to stay the requirement here imposed.

RIGHT TO REQUEST REVIEW

Under the provisions of Section 102.67 of the Board's Rules and Regulations, a request for review of this Decision may be filed with the National Labor Relations Board, addressed to the **Executive Secretary, Franklin Court, 1099 14th Street N.W., Washington D.C. 20570.** This request must be received by the Board in Washington by**, July 24, 2003**. **Section 103.20 of the Board's Rule concerns the posting of election notices. Your attention is directed to the attached copy of that Section.**

Dated at Detroit, Michigan, this 10th day of July 2003.

(SEAL)

/s/ Stephen M. Glasser
Stephen M. Glasser, Regional Director
National Labor Relations Board-Region 7
Patrick V. McNamara Federal Building
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Detroit, Michigan 48226

Classifications

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